

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 241

Commending the International Criminal Court for issuing a warrant for the arrest of Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and expressing the hope that this will be a significant step in the long road towards achieving peace and stability in the Darfur region.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. PERRIELLO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Commending the International Criminal Court for issuing a warrant for the arrest of Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and expressing the hope that this will be a significant step in the long road towards achieving peace and stability in the Darfur region.

Whereas the current conflict stems from a number of ethnic, religious, geographic, environmental, and political factors, and involves numerous factions competing for scarce re-

sources, political power, civil rights, and in some instances, their own survival;

Whereas the terrible and bloody conflict in Darfur has persisted since at least before February 2003, when the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement arose in opposition to the National Congress Party;

Whereas the Sudanese Government responded with a relentless campaign of violence in which over 450,000 men, women, and children have been killed, millions displaced, and hundreds of thousands forced to flee their homes amidst brutal murder, rape, torture, and unconscionable oppression;

Whereas after many years of activism from activists, grassroots organizers, and religious and political figures from around the world, many observers, including then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, as well as numerous international human rights organizations, referred to the ongoing conflict as genocide, which requires certain specific interventions;

Whereas the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent body whose mission is to try individuals for crimes within its jurisdiction without the need for a special mandate from the United Nations;

Whereas the situation in Darfur was referred to the ICC by the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir has been the President of the Republic of the Sudan since his appointment by the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (RCC–NS) on October 16, 1993, and has been elected as such successively since April 1, 1996;

Whereas President al-Bashir stands accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

Whereas this is the first warrant of arrest ever issued for a sitting Head of State by the ICC;

Whereas although the ICC concluded that there was not enough evidence to issue a warrant for President al-Bashir's arrest for the crime of genocide, the warrant can later be amended to include genocide in the event that the prosecution submits sufficient evidence of President al-Bashir's role in the genocide in Darfur; and

Whereas President al-Bashir's immediate response to the arrest warrant was to expel humanitarian aid agencies from the region, further threatening the lives of over 1,100,000 million people who are at grave risk of starvation and disease: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the International Criminal Court
3 for issuing an arrest warrant for President of the
4 Republic of the Sudan Omar Hassan Ahmad al-
5 Bashir on crimes against humanity and war crimes;

6 (2) condemns the expulsion of international aid
7 agencies, which further threatens the lives of over
8 1,100,000 people who depend on these organizations
9 for food, water, health care, and safety;

10 (3) condemns the Sudanese Government for
11 continuing an active campaign of repression and
12 needless violence against its own people;

1 (4) calls upon the international community to
2 persist in its efforts to bring President al-Bashir to
3 justice and to pressure the Sudanese regime to cease
4 its campaign of violence;

5 (5) expresses the hope that the arrest warrant
6 and subsequent efforts, which must be accompanied
7 by other actions and aid from the international com-
8 munity, will play a significant role in achieving and
9 maintaining stability and peace in the region;

10 (6) expresses its belief that a multifaceted ap-
11 proach is needed to successfully end genocide and
12 the repression of human rights in Darfur, including
13 positive social, economic, and political developments
14 in the region; and

15 (7) applauds the United States Government's
16 commitment to vigorous diplomacy as well as Sec-
17 retary of State Hillary Clinton's stated commitment
18 to work towards a solution, and encourages Presi-
19 dent Barack Obama to appoint a full-time envoy to
20 the region to engage in diplomatic efforts.

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